



# The Pipeline

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## Bowl for Kids' Sake Teams Need Your Pledge

By Anya Armes Weber



There's still time to sign up your team for Big Brothers Big Sisters' Bowl for Kids' Sake. And if you aren't able to participate, you can help by sponsoring a bowler.

The Cabinet's lane times are 10-11 a.m. and 11 to noon on Friday, March 15, at Frankfort's Capital Bowl at 80 Anderson Road, off US 127. Teams must be of four or five people and should arrive at the lanes 15 minutes before their scheduled game time. Teams that have not yet signed up will bowl at 10 a.m. Shoe rental is free.

Arby's and Papa John's will provide free lunch, and door prizes will be awarded.

Bowlers raising at least \$65 in pledges will receive a Bowl for Kids' Sake T-shirt. Bowlers raising more will receive prizes like hats, free dinners and a chance to win a basketball signed by University of Kentucky men's basketball Coach Tubby Smith.

Bowl for Kids' Sake raises money for Big Brothers Big Sisters of the Bluegrass, which serves Franklin and surrounding counties. The program matches adults with children ages 6-13 who are from single-parent homes.

To sign up your team or find out who you can sponsor, contact the Bowl for Kids' Sake representative from your office or Cabinet coordinator Eboney Mayewski in the Office of Performance Enhancement at 564-0068.

## Bake Sale



The Cabinet's Bowl for Kids' Sake team will have a bake sale for Big Brothers Big Sisters next Friday, March 1. The sale will be 9 a.m.-1:30 p.m. in the CHR

lobby. If you would like to donate individually wrapped items to the sale, call Eboney or e-mail her at Eboney.Mayewski@mail.state.ky.us.

## The ABCs of EAL



Now that most Cabinet staff has completed the Everyone a Leader skill-building sessions, it doesn't hurt to have small reminders of the lessons we studied. "The ABCs of EAL" features tips that can help us improve our relationships with coworkers and our service to the families of Kentucky.

## This week: A-C

Take some time to put together an **agenda** for your next team meeting. This can be a task for the meeting manager, who should get everyone's input. Meetings flow nicely and are over sooner when they're structured.

It takes all four **behavioral styles** to make a team work. If a project team is being put together, it would be wise to have representation from each of the D, I, S and C areas. That way, all major aspects of the project would be addressed.

"D" would make sure the goal was being pursued.

"I" would make sure there was good communication.

"S" would make sure the work was completed.

"C" would make sure that everything was done to specifications.

**Comprehensive Family Services** is our mode of operation now. We're all a part of the team that matches our services and provider services with each family's needs. We may not be on the front lines, but the work we do supports our teammates in the field, who serve our customers.



## Jefferson County's Family to Family Initiative Gets \$350,000 Grant

By Anya Armes Weber

The Jefferson County Department for Community Based Services' (DCBS) Family to Family initiative has been awarded a \$350,000 grant from the Annie E. Casey Foundation for the 2001-2002 fiscal year.

The Casey Foundation is a private, nonprofit organization that supports child advocacy projects nationwide. Family to Family is an innovative foster care model developed by Casey and being piloted in several cities nationwide, including Louisville, Cincinnati, Cleveland, San Francisco and New York.

Jefferson County launched its pilot last year. It aims for strong family and community involvement in finding safe, long-term supports for foster children, including neighborhood placement. Goals of the initiative include reducing the number of children in institutional care, decreasing the time children are in out-of-home placement, and raising the number of planned reunifications.

The grant, awarded in January, follows a \$150,000 preplanning grant Casey awarded the initiative last year.

"We are proud to have the continuing support of the Casey Foundation," said Viola Miller, secretary of the Kentucky Cabinet for Families and Children. "Family to Family's values emphasize what is in the best interest of the children of Jefferson County."

The money will be used for targeted recruitment of foster families, training, marketing, an evaluation of the initiative, support staff and

neighborhood grants to support Family to Family projects.

The Jefferson County Family to Family planning teams involve cabinet staff, foster families and representatives from public service agencies and churches.

"The Cabinet has striven to reshape its efforts in a manner that embraces community partnerships," said Sandra Wilson, Jefferson County KIPDA service region administrator. "Family to Family values mold perfectly with Cabinet values."

Central to CFC's vision in Jefferson County is the Neighborhood Place system. Neighborhood Places are "one-stop" centers that house several public service agencies. Jefferson has eight Neighborhood Places and two satellite locations. Each Neighborhood Place is guided by a Community Council made up of customers and people who live and work in the area. Family to Family planners have worked closely with the county's Neighborhood Places.

Family to Family efforts are concentrated in Neighborhood Place communities where the greatest number of children have been removed from their homes.

"When we see that a certain number of children have been removed from a neighborhood in the last year, we know we have to recruit more foster families from that neighborhood," said Velma Hunter, chief recruitment coordinator for Jefferson County's DCBS. "Better yet, we can try to prevent a removal in the first place."

One key Family to Family value is that the racial, cultural and ethnic heritage of families and the neighborhoods where they live must be supported. Foster care in familiar surroundings, without changing schools, churches and friends is far less traumatic for children. Family to Family research shows that compared with children in traditional foster care, children in neighborhood placements experience fewer moves, higher self-esteem, shorter lengths of stay in out-of-home care and more contact with their biological families. The ultimate goal of

Family to Family is to ensure the safety and well-being of children, which depend in large part on the stability of the home and surrounding environment.

Last month, more than \$65,000 in Family to Family grants were issued to nine local agencies for activities that benefit children living in foster care or with relatives. The activities funded include respite care and counseling for foster parents, after-school activities for children and recruitment efforts.

"We are only effective in serving families if we do it in tandem with the families, other service providers and natural neighborhood networks," Wilson said. "There is a whole spectrum of providers, and we've tried to pull as many people into the planning circle as we could."

Wilson said an advantage of Family to Family is that it lets each neighborhood recognize the needs of its own children and, with the support of DCBS staff, design a plan to fulfill those needs.

"Family to Family takes child protection to a neighborhood level," Wilson said. "Strong communities give rise to strong families."

For information about becoming a foster parent in Jefferson County, call (502) 595-KIDS.

Contact Eddie Woods, Family to Family project coordinator, at (502) 595-5518 for more information about the initiative.



For more information go to <http://www.kytc.state.ky.us/BuckleUpKentucky.htm>